

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MOGADI 01799 100749Z

15

ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 NIC-01 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 /069 W

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P R 091110Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2448

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOGADISCIO 1799

E.O. 11652; GDS

TAGS: PINT, SO

SUBJECT: SOMALI GOVERNMENT CHANGES

REFERENCE: MOGADISCIO 1791

1. SUMMARY: SOMALI GOVERNMENT CHANGES ANNOUNCED  
DECEMBER 6 SHOULD IMPROVE EFFICIENCY OF POLICY-MAKING  
AND ADMINISTRATION. REORGANIZATION APPEARS GIVE  
SOMEWHAT MORE SCOPE TO WESTERN AND ARAB-ORIENTED  
FORCES, WITH IMPORTANT EXCEPTION OF MILITARY FIELD.  
KEY ELEMENT WILL BE ROLE OF PROMINENT CIVILIAN  
MARXISTS NAMED AS "ADVISORS" TO SRC COMMITTEES, WITH  
LOCAL EARLY BETTING BEING THAT THIS PROBABLY REPRESENTS  
REDUCTION IN THEIR INFLUENCE AND SCOPE FOR  
INDEPENDENT ACTION. END SUMMARY.

2. WE ASSUME BASIC CONTROL OVER NATION'S AFFAIRS WILL REMAIN  
IN HANDS OF SRC THROUGH ITS COMMITTEES, THOUGH LOSS OF DIRECT  
MINISTERIAL AND OTHER EXECUTIVE--BANANA BOARD, CRASH PROGRAM,  
ETC.-- RESPONSIBILITY FOR SRC MEMBERS REPRESENTS  
POTENTIAL REDUCTION IN THEIR  
POWER (AND THEIR OPPORTUNITY FOR SELF-ENRICHMENT).  
SOURCE WHO TALKED TO INDIVIDUAL WHO MET WITH SRC JUST  
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PAGE 02 MOGADI 01799 100749Z

AFTER THEIR ALL-NIGHT DISCUSSION WITH SIAD ON THE CHANGES

SAID THEY WERE VIRTUALLY ALL QUITE UPSET.

3. SRC PEACE AND SECURITY COMMITTEE CLEARLY DOMINATED BY SOVIETS' FRIENDS THOUGH NSS HEAD SULWIMAN WILL PROVIDE SIAD WITH IMPORTANT INDEPENDENT PERSONAL CHANNEL INTO ITS WORKINGS.

4. POLITICAL AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE IS UNDER VP ABOKOR, A STRONG-MINDED INDIVIDUAL WHO IS NOT RPT NOT PARTICULARLY PRO-SOVIET, AND TWO OF ITS MEMBERS ARE AMONG THOSE OF SRC MOST SYMPATHETIC TO ARABS.

5. COMPLEXION OF SRC ECONMIC COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP IS EVEN MORE SYMPATHETIC TO WEST AND ARAB WORLD.

6. FUNCTIONS OF JUSTICE COMMITTEE ARE UNCLEAR. NOTEWORTHY THAT IT IS HEADED BY SIAD'S FELLOW TRIBESMAN, WHO BECOMES ONLY SRC MEMBER TO HEAD A COMMITTEE OTHER THAN THE THREE VPS. VP ABOKOR WARNED DEC. 7 THAT FIVE YEARS HAVE PASSED SINCE REVOLUTION AND GOVERNMENT WILL NO LONGER TOLERATE ELEMENTS WHO ATTEMPT CREATE DIFFICULTIES. THIS STERN LINE HAS APPEARED ELSEWHERE AND IT MAY BE THAT JUSTICE COMMITTEE WILL BE USED BY SIAD TO SUPERVISE METING OUT OF PUNISHMENT TO THOSE HE CONSIDERS HOSTILE OR CORRUPT ELEMENTS.

7. SECRETARIES OF STATE ARE ALMOST ALL CAPABLE TECHNICIANS, THE GREAT MAJORITY OF WHOM ARE WESTERN-EDUCATED. CHANGES WITHIN COUNCIL OF SECRETARIES SHOULD REPRESENT SUBSTANTIAL NET GAIN IN TERMS OF EFFICIENCY OF OPERATION.

8. SEVERAL OF MOST PROMINENT AND MOST MARXIST OF FORMER CIVILIAN SECRETARIES HAVE LOST THEIR JOBS AS MINISTERS BUT HAVE BEEN MADE "ADVISORS" TO SRC COMMITTEES. KEY ELEMENT IN ASSESSING POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF GOVERNMENTAL CHANGES WILL BE NATURE OF THEIR ROLE. THEIR ASSOCIATION WITH THESE SRC COMMITTEES SHOULD GIVE THEM OPPORTUNITY FOR DIRECT INFLUENCE ON WHAT WE ASSUME WILL BE KEY POLICY-MAKING

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 MOGADI 01799 100749Z

BODIES WITHIN GOVERNMENT. ON OTHER HAND, WE ARE TOLD THEY WILL NOT RPT NOT HAVE A VOTE ON THEIR COMMITTEES AND INDEED WILL ATTEND COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND PROFER ADVICE ONLY WHEN ASKED. FURTHERMORE, THEY WILL BE ONLY CIVILIANS PARTICIPATING IN THESE MILITARY BODIES AND THERE HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLE HOSTILITY TOWARD THIS IN PAST ON PART OF MANY SRC MEMBERS. FACT THEY HAVE RELINQUISHED IMPORTANT MINISTERIAL

RESPONSIBILITIES REDUCES THEIR SCOPE FOR INDEPENDENT ACTION. FOR THESE REASONS, MANY IN MOGADISCIO, INCLUDING USUALLY WELL-INFORMED ARAB COLLEAGUES, ARE ASSERTING THESE INDIVIDUALS HAVE BEEN "PUT ON SHELF". WE BELIEVE THINGS MIGHT WORK OUT THIS WAY BUT FEEL THIS MAY VARY FROM INDIVIDUAL TO INDIVIDUAL AND WILL IN ANY CASE BECOME CLEAR ONLY AS NEW GOVERNMENTAL SYSTEM GETS INTO OPERATION.

9. GSDR HAS STILL DONE LITTLE IN WAY OF PUBLIC EXPLANATION OF REASONS FOR CHANGES, ALTHOUGH VP ABOKOR TOLD PRESS DEC. 7 THAT SRC MEMBERS RELINQUISHED THEIR MINISTERIAL POSITIONS AND BURDEN OF DAILY PAPERWORK TO DEVOTE THEMSELVES TO MORE PRESSING MATTERS OF STATE, WHILE CONTROL OF DAILY OPERATIONS BEING TURNED OVER TO YOUNG SOMALI TECHNOCRATS.  
KIRK

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